

24. (original) An electronic information management process according to claim 23, and comprising the step of generating a customized report of data contained in selected ones of the contract abstracting fields.

25. (original) An electronic information management process according to claim 19, and comprising the step of copying a portion of the tagged section of contract information into the section summary.

26. (original) An electronic information management process according to claim 19, and comprising the step of making the electronic database accessible to multiple users via a global communications network.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The undersigned greatly appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiners James Blackwell and William Bashore during the personal interview on July 29, 2004 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Applicant's representatives Scott Schubert and Dan Roehl discussed the general concept of the invention and provided an on-line demonstration illustrating the system's various features. The prior art Miller, Vogel, and Kupiec patents were also discussed during the interview.

Claims 1-27 in the case are pending. Claims 1-8, 17, 18, and 27 are cancelled herein. Pending claim 9, 15, 19, and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller ('653) in view of Vogel ('982), and further in view of Kupiec ('822). Pending claims 10-14 and 20-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as

being unpatentable over Miller ('653) in view of Vogel ('982), and further in view of Kupiec ('822), and further in view of Shirley ('206). Pending claims 6 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller ('653) in view of Vogel ('982), and further in view of Jacobs ('817).

As discussed during the interview, base claims 9 and 19 of the application have been amended to better reflect the current commercial version of the invention, and to remove unnecessary limitations. The claims recite a system and process, respectively, for abstracting and reporting contract information. For the system claims, a computer communicates with an electronic database. An input device is operatively connected to the computer for entering contract information into the database. A plurality of electronic indexing tags are provided at predetermined locations within the stored contract information, and cooperate with a computer program to identify selected sections of the contract information. A section summary is prepared for each of the indexed contract sections. The summary is recorded in a field electronically linked to at least one of the indexing tags, such that a user viewing the section summary can drill down into the stored contract information to retrieve the contract section corresponding to the electronically linked indexing tag. A display device is operatively connected to the computer for displaying the section summary and the corresponding contract section. Process claims 19-26 recite steps including comparable elements and limitations.

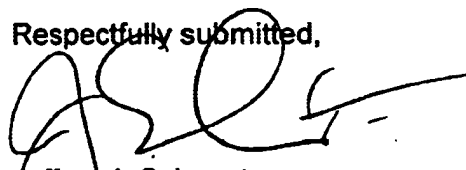
Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art cited fails to disclose, teach or suggest the present system and process. Specifically, no system or process described in this art includes preparing a *section summary which is recorded in a field electronically linked to an indexing tag, such that a user viewing the section summary can drill down into the stored contract information to retrieve the contract section corresponding to the electronically linked indexing tag.* This feature is especially useful when abstracting sizable

contracts which may contain relevant section information in multiple locations throughout the document. For example, in a typical commercial real estate lease, certain provisions relating to *Base Rent* may occur in several different pages within a 30 or more page contract. In the present system and process, the *Base Rent* section is summarized and a predetermined index tag located at each of the relevant locations within the actual contract. When viewing the section summary, the user is able to "drill down" directly into the contract to retrieve all tagged information relating to *Base Rent* in a single step. Thus, any questions regarding the *Base Rent* section summary can be readily answered by quickly and conveniently reviewing all actual contract language relating to this provision.

In Kupiec, a document summary is generated by extracting text from a document and then providing the extracted text to an automatic summarizer. The resulting summary contains "indicators" which indicate the corresponding locations in the original document from which each portion of the summary was extracted. While Kupiec identifies where the summarized text is located in the document, it does not enable the direct drilling-down into the document in a single convenient step to retrieve all relevant document text. Neither Miller nor Vogel discuss preparing *summary sections* for contract information.

For all these reasons discussed above, Applicant submits that all of the claims in the case are now in condition for allowance. Such action is therefore respectfully requested at an early date. If the Examiner believes that issues remain for discussion, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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